

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 4.8
TITLE: **TRANSTELEPHONIC MONITORING OF PACEMAKERS**

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(g)(52)

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

- A. September 13, 1984, for pacemaker.
- B. October 28, 1997, for all other uses.

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

93731-93736

III. DESCRIPTION

A telephonic diagnostic monitoring procedure incorporates electronic transmission of data or remote detection and **measurement** of a medical condition, activity, or function (biotelemetry) between a patient and **provider**.

IV. POLICY

Telephonic monitoring services are covered under the following circumstances:

1. When the procedure for which the telephonic monitoring is otherwise a CHAMPVA covered benefit, or
2. When the use of electronic transmission or biotelemetry is found to be **necessary to improve** the management of a clinical condition in defined circumstances, or
3. When transtelephonic monitoring of pacemakers is a complement to outpatient visits to a physician's office or specialized cardiac unit in a hospital or clinic, and
4. When the device(s) used in the transmission of data or biotelemetry has been approved for marketing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

V. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. The charge from an otherwise authorized provider must represent the total charge for the monitoring service. This includes charges for use of the transmitting device, monitoring of the patient's pulse and interpretation and report by the cardiologist.

B. Telephonic equipment or monitoring services provided by a physician or his/her staff is a covered benefit.

END OF POLICY